



St Vedast-alias-Foster

Peace and Contemplation in the City

NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

A message from Fr Paul

As you will know, from Thursday we are in a lockdown situation. This means that churches can only open for private prayer or the streaming of services by one person. St. Vedast will be open each weekday - 11.30 am to 2 pm - with the courtyard open for longer. We will continue to offer peace and contemplation in the heart of the City.

We will stream a weekday 12.15 Mass from the side chapel. During this time the side chapel will be closed. The Sunday Eucharist is streamed at 11 am followed by coffee over Zoom. At this time the church will be locked. Please do not try to join these services in person.

A second lockdown is a very tough time for many people as the days draw in and the prospect of a family Christmas fades. Please do contact me if you would like a pastoral visit by phone, Zoom or in person if we meet outside. Also, feel free to contact me regarding someone else who may wish to be visited. Please also email me prayer requests for our services. You all remain in my thoughts and prayers at this time.

Paul

You can join us for live weekday masses & our Sunday Service

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq5PIrgy_zMhluHu-ZePfRQ?view_as=subscriber

After the Sunday Service

Paul Kennedy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Post Eucharist coffee

Time: This is a recurring meeting each Sunday after Mass

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89210467362>

Meeting ID: 892 1046 7362

You can still make your Sunday offering online at this link which can also be used for all donations

As with most charities the lockdown has stretched our finances considerably.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/3020d4c5-77d2-4718-8e2c-d9047a66f720>

There will be no pew sheets during lockdown. Readings for each Sunday printed below.

Sunday 8 November, Remembrance Sunday

We meet in the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

An older person would say

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

A younger person may reply

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

All We will remember them.

The beginning of the two-minute silence.

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25.1-13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

From our foreign correspondent

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
Greetings from the Commonwealth of Virginia!

It seems an age since Geraldine and I bade farewell to London and Saint Vedast. Back in January, I felt sure that we would have made a visit back across the Atlantic by now; but we cannot even plan one at this point. Josie McQuail, who is practically a neighbour (well, Tennessee is a neighbouring state), tells me she missed making it to London in the summer too. Some of my correspondence with Josie concerned a couple of hurricanes which swept through Tennessee earlier in the year. Yesterday, hurricane Zeta (strictly speaking, post-tropical cyclone Zeta by the time it reached us) deposited a large amount of rain upon us, though its winds were not too worrisome.

As you read this, you will be marking Remembrance Sunday. The US marks Veterans Day on 11 November, as a secular Federal holiday, recalling the service of all US military personnel whether or not they were killed in war or not, and regardless of the conflicts in which they served. So there is nothing like Remembrance Sunday here. I have always had misgivings about the service, especially in a City parish (and I can give anyone interested a note as to why, if they wish), but I suspect that I shall miss it all the same.

Indeed, I miss going to church. Farmville's Anglican church (Johns Memorial Church, named after a bishop rather than a saint) has been closed since we got here. Watching a YouTube broadcast of a service is one thing when you know the participants, but takes on a rather voyeuristic feel when you don't. I recognize the Rector, organist, etc now, but it's surreal nevertheless. The parish is in the process of agreeing a re-opening strategy with the bishop, but no news yet on when that might be. So worship has a distinctively personal feel; there is no common prayer in the sense intended by the Book thereof. On Easter Day, I found myself reading the resurrection account from John that begins "Early on the first day of the week ...", early on the first day of the week. With our nearest streetlight about four miles away, the view of the stars is quite breathtaking; and I have spontaneously burst out singing

Now all the heav'nly splendor
breaks forth in starlight tender
from myriad worlds unknown;
and man, the marvel seeing,
forgets his selfish being,
for joy of beauty not his own.

The heav'nly splendor is impossible to see in streetlight-saturated London. Moving to the countryside has reminded me of God's work in creation that's so easy to forget.

With our prayers for your safekeeping,

Edward and Geraldine